



Isiah Leggett, County Executive
 Timothy Firestine, Chief Administrator Officer

Catherine Matthews, Director
 Mark Firley, UCAB Chair

December 31, 2015



Montgomery County government will observe the following holiday schedule for Christmas Day, December 25 and New Year's Day, January 1:

County Offices – closed

Libraries – closed December 25, 26 and January 1, 2; all branches will close at 6 p.m. on December 24 and 31

County Liquor stores – closed December 24 and 31 at 7 p.m.; closed December 25 and January 1

Recreation – all facilities are closed on December 25 and January 1; senior centers, community and neighborhood recreations centers will be closed Friday, December 25 through Friday, January 1; aquatics to close at 3 p.m. on December 24 and 31. Contact aquatics facility directly for modified holiday schedules

Montgomery Parks - for holiday operating schedule on Parks' facilities, including Brookside Gardens, ice rinks, tennis centers, trains and carousels, visit www.MontgomeryParks.org

Ride On – Sunday schedule on December 25 and January 1; limited weekday service until 10 p.m. on December 24.

Metrobus – Sunday schedule

Metrorail – Sunday schedule

TRiPS Commuter Stores (Silver Spring and Friendship Heights) -- closed

Refuse/recycling pickup – no collection*

Transfer Station – closed on December 25 and January 1; Transfer's Station's public drop-off area will close at 5 p.m. on December 24 and December 31

Parking at public garages, lots, curbside meters – free

MCPS Administrative Offices – closed December 24 and 25 and January 1

State offices and courts – closed

*Collection for Friday provided one day later for remainder of week (last collection day is Saturday)

Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board Committee Meetings – January 2016

Land Use Committee Monday, January 4 7:00pm-9:00pm

Discussion: "Life Sciences Corridor Loop Design Guidelines"
Guest: Steve Findley, Area 2 Planner, Mont. Co. Planning Department

Presentation: "The Universities at Shady Grove Campus Expansion"
Guest: Karen Mitchell, The Universities at Shady Grove

Quality of Life Committee Monday, January 11 7:00pm-9:00pm

Discussion: "Housing Trends in Montgomery County"
Guest: Gwen Wright, Planning Director, Montgomery County Planning Department

Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If these or other services or aids are needed to participate in this activity, please call 240-777-8040 or email a request to catherine.matthews@montgomerycountymd.gov.

2016 Department of Permitting Services and Businesses Breakfast Monday, January 11 8:00am-10:00am Executive Office Building, Lobby Auditorium 101 Monroe Street, Rockville

Build your business relationships and learn more about DPS programs. DPS will present updates and information on signs, eServices for businesses and more.

Please RSVP by Monday, January 4, 2016 by contacting
Jessica Fusillo (Jessica.fusillo@montgomerycountymd.gov)

County Executive Leggett to Hold Public Forums on the FY17 Budget **All of the forums will begin at 7:00pm.**

This is a great opportunity for the community to provide input for the County's budget for fiscal year 2017 which begins on July 1, 2016 and ends on June 30, 2017. Come out with your questions and suggestions! Click on a location below for address and map.

- [Eastern Regional Services Center: January 6, 2016.](#)
- [BCC Regional Services Center: January 11, 2016.](#)
- [Silver Spring Civic Building: January 20, 2016.](#)
- [Mid-County Community Recreation Center: January 21, 2016.](#)
- [BlackRock Center for the Arts: January 25, 2016. \(Germantown\)](#)

The County Executive announces his Recommended Fiscal Year 2017 Operating Budget in March. The County Council must approve the operating budget by the end of May.

Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If these or other services or aids are needed to participate in this activity, call 240-777-6507, TTY 240-773-3556 or email a request to Karen.falcon@montgomerycountymd.gov

Montgomery Charter Review Commission to hold Public Hearing on Charter issues

Looking for comments and suggestions from civic groups, organizations, agencies, individuals

Wednesday, January 20 7:30pm

Council Office Building, 7th Floor Hearing Room

100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville

(in case of a snow cancellation, the hearing will be held on Monday, January 25, 7:30pm)

The Montgomery County Charter Review Commission is seeking suggestions from County residents on possible amendments to the County Charter. To sign up to speak at the hearing, residents can call 240-777-7928 or send an email to charterreview.commission@montgomerycountymd.gov.

The Charter is the constitutional framework for County government. Charter Section 509 provides for an 11-member, bi-partisan Charter Review Commission (CRC) to study the Montgomery County Charter. The Charter requires that the Commission next report to the County Council in May of 2016. Any recommendations for possible Charter revisions would be considered by County voters.

One issue the CRC is considering is an amendment that would allow special elections to fill any vacancies in the office of County Executive. Currently special elections are permitted for Council vacancies, but not Executive vacancies.

Residents can also testify about issues concerning the County Charter, including how tax rates are set and term limits of elected officials.

Suggestions can be submitted to the Charter Review Commission in writing to: Charter Review Commission, Montgomery County Council, 100 Maryland Avenue, 5th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850. Suggestions and comments also can be e-mailed to: charterreview.commission@montgomerycountymd.gov.

The Charter Review Commission is appointed by the Council every four years. Its meetings are open to the public. No more than six members are from the same political party. The current members are Chair Paul Bessel, Vice Chair Sharon Freeman, Wendy Cohen, Jennifer Hunt, A. Lawrence Lauer, Timothy Lighter, Joshua Lipsky, Randy McDonald, Angela Rey, Aryeh Shudofsky and Edward Wisneski.

More information about the County Charter can be found at http://www.amlegal.com/codes/client/montgomery-county_md/ or at <http://bessel.org/charter/charter.htm>.

Montgomery Council Approves Radon Test Bill to Inform Homebuyers of Risks Associated With Potentially Harmful Gas

County Will Become First in Nation to Mandate Radon Testing as Part of Process for Most Home Sales

The Montgomery County Council today unanimously approved amended Bill 31-15 that will require most single-family homes be tested for radon prior to being sold. Montgomery County is the first in the nation to mandate radon testing, ensuring that buyers and sellers are informed of the possible existence of radon in their homes. Bill 31-15 will take effect in October 2016.

Radon is already listed as one of the hazardous materials that a seller must disclose to the buyer of a single-family home if the seller has actual knowledge of its existence under Maryland State law. However, State law does not require a seller to determine if radon exists.

Bill 31-15 is a complement to State law. The bill requires that "a single-family home located in the County must be tested for radon before completing the sale. The radon test must be performed less than one year before the settlement date. The seller must either perform the test or permit the buyer to perform the test. Both the seller and the buyer must receive a copy of the results."

The Council also amended the bill to provide for certain exceptions.

Leadership Montgomery to Host

“Policing in a Post-Ferguson World”

**Thursday, January 21 6:30pm-9:00pm
Montgomery College, Rockville Campus
Theater Arts Building
51 Mannakee Street, Rockville, MD**

Featured speaker: Montgomery County Police Chief Tom Manger

Moderator: Tim Warner, Chief Engagement and Partnership Officer, Montgomery County Public Schools

This will be a community town hall meeting open to all. **The event is free of charge but registration is required.**

Discussion topics will include:

- Body Cameras
- Police Hiring/Training Practices
- Biased Policing
- Use of Force
- Police Accountability

Register at <http://www.leadershipmontgomerymd.org> or call (301) 881-3333.

Happy New Year from Montgomery County’s Upcounty Regional Office!

For more News from the Office of the County Executive, visit: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/news>

For other news and meeting agendas, visit:

County Council <http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/cs/templ.asp?url=/content/council/news/news.asp>

Planning Board http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/departments/news_releases

Also check out the latest from:

Department of Public Libraries <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library>

Department of Recreation <http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/rectmpl.asp?url=/content/rec/index.asp>

Department of Transportation <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/index.html>

Department of Environmental Protection <http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/deatmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/dephome/index.asp>

Department of Permitting Services <http://permitting.montgomerycountymd.gov/DPS/general/Home.aspx>

Montgomery County Volunteer Center <http://www.montgomeryserves.org>

Office of Community Partnerships <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs100/1102184431012/archive/1117215431562.html>

Commission for Women <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/index.html>